



City of Marysville

526 C Street
Marysville, CA 95901
(530) 749-3901

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AUG 08 2024

Clerk/Board of Supervisors

July 29, 2024

Honorable Stephen W. Berrier
Yuba County Superior Court
215 5th Street, Suite 200
Marysville, CA 95901

RE: Response of the Marysville City Council to the final report of the Yuba County Grand Jury ("YCGJ") 2023-2024 (pages 35-39)

Pursuant to California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the City of Marysville ("City") hereby submits its formal response to the 2023-2024 Grand Jury Final Report ("Report") on the "Lighting the Streets of Marysville". The City respects the important role of the Yuba County Grand Jury, and respectfully provides the following responses:

I) Introduction

The Council's primary responsibility is to act in the best interest of the citizens of Marysville. The Council has major commitments to residents of the community, business owners, City employees, the Federal Government and the State of California as well as a duty to adhere to the Marysville Charter, its Municipal Code and related policies. To maximize the organization's effectiveness and maintain public confidence the Mayor and Council Members are expected to make often difficult policy and fiscal decisions that best benefit our constituents as a whole. Those policies are then implemented by city staff under the City Manager's direction. City staff often provide information and recommendations to City Council to assist in setting policy and priorities.

II) Required Responses to Findings and Recommendations

Finding 1:

The design of the streetlights in the City of Marysville has not been updated to keep up with the growth in the City.

City Response to Finding 1: Disagree

The City respectfully disagrees with the Grand Jury's findings. It is unclear as to what growth the Grand Jury is referencing. The City is constrained by levees, and the City has not experienced significant growth geographically since 2003. Prior to the City being built out to its limits, streetlights were placed in new developments as part of their design and construction.



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Streetlights are currently present throughout the City. There may be areas /locations that could benefit through enhanced fixtures or new additional streetlights, but the City has a constrained budget and other activities (street paving, sidewalk repairs, storm drains, etc.) have taken a higher priority than enhancing street lighting.

It is also not clear as to what design is being referenced requiring update. Nearly all streetlight lamps were retrofitted with efficient and reliable LED units in 2012.

In terms of evaluation of the City's streetlight network for adequacy, City staff estimates cost of such evaluation would be approximately \$150,000 to \$200,000 (reference study to evaluate lighting infrastructure for Albany CA, which included approximately 900 streetlights, at a cost of \$174,280 and approved by the Albany City Council on March 20, 2023.

<https://www.albanyca.org/residents/city-projects/citywide-streetlighting-evaluation>

Albany's final streetlighting evaluation report, dated February 29, 2004, estimated the costs to implement recommendations between 4.5 million and 5.7 million dollars.

If a resident desires an evaluation of the City's streetlights he/she can express this desire at regularly scheduled City Council meetings, generally held the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM. The City Council deliberates and approves the City Budget between April and June of each year, and therefore these proceedings are the opportune time for the public to express their wants and needs for consideration as the Council sets priorities and commits funds for the various activities within the City.

Finding 2:

The City of Marysville does not have a maintenance program to identify and repair deficient streetlights.

City Response to Finding 2: Disagree

The City respectfully disagrees with the Grand Jury's findings. The City has a maintenance program in place to repair streetlights. A resident can report a malfunctioning streetlight via the email link available on the City website: contact@marysville.ca.us. Alternatively, the resident can complete a service request, located on the City's website at <https://www.marysville.ca.us/public-works>. The form has check boxes for a variety of common requests, including streetlights, streets repairs, parks, sewer, storm drains, trees, nuisance abatement, etc. There is also a checkbox for "other" in the instance there the nature of the request does not have an applicable check box. Below the check box area there is a space to describe the nature of the request in detail. If more



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convenient, a resident can report a malfunctioning streetlight by coming to City Hall, located at 526 C Street Marysville, CA, 95901. City Hall is open 8:00AM-4:30PM Monday through Friday.

Once notified, city staff are dispatched on a prioritized basis to verify, troubleshoot and repair these lights. In some cases, the issue may be related to PG&E service, whereupon staff contact PG&E to start a repair order following PG&E processes. Limited staffing precludes nighttime inspections for inoperable streets lights at night and therefore the lighting is addressed on an as reported basis.

Of note is that between 1/17 and 1/24/2022 a volunteer group led by Council Member Stuart Gilchrist walked the streets of Marysville and Identified 53 streetlamps that were malfunctioning. City Staff has inspected and repaired 53 of the 53 units. An additional 3 malfunctioning units were identified as of 1/9/2024. Of those, 3 have been inspected and repaired.

In the iWorQ service request program, there are currently 2 streetlights with repairs outstanding, 2 which are awaiting parts, and 0 which are awaiting PGE repairs of power to the pole.

Finding 3:

The City of Marysville has no procedures for residents to request new streetlights in their neighborhood, making it more difficult to enhance pedestrian visibility and reduce crime.

City Response to Finding 3: Disagree

The City respectfully disagrees with the Grand Jury's findings. The City has procedures for a resident to request a new streetlight in their neighborhood. The request can be initiated in the same manner as a request to repair an existing streetlight. A resident can make the request via the email link available on the City website: contact@marysville.ca.us. Alternatively, the resident can complete a service request located on the City's website located at <https://www.marysville.ca.us/public-works>. There is a check box to designate the request is streetlight related and an area to explain the request (e.g.: "I would like to request a streetlight at 1234 first street). If it is more convenient, a resident can request a new streetlight by coming to City Hall, located at 526 C Street Marysville, CA, 95901. City Hall is open 8:00AM-4:30PM Monday through Friday. If desired, residents can also attend City Council meetings, generally held the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM.

As mentioned in previous response to finding 1, the City Council deliberates and approves the City Budget between April and June of each year. Budget proceedings are the opportune time for the public to express their wants and needs for consideration as the Council sets priorities and commits funds for the various activities within the City. Streetlight installations range from



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\$4,000 for replacement to \$20,000 per new installed unit. Given the cost to install, and weighing this against other City priorities, the City Council may choose not to grant the request.

Finding 4:

There is a service request form on the Marysville Public Works' website which residents can use to submit service requests for replacing burnt out bulbs and other public works items.

City Response to Finding 4: Agree

A resident can report a malfunctioning streetlight via the email link available on the City website: contact@marysville.ca.us. Alternatively, the resident can complete a service request located on the City's website located at <https://www.marysville.ca.us/public-works>. The form has check boxes for a variety of common requests, including streetlights, streets repairs, parks, sewer, storm drains, trees, nuisance abatement, etc. There is also a checkbox for "other", in the instance that the nature of the request does not have an applicable check box. Below the check box area there is a space to describe the nature of the request in detail.

Recommendation 1:

The YCGJ recommends the City of Marysville complete a comprehensive study of its streetlights. The YCGJ recommends the City of Marysville develop a master plan for identifying areas in need of increased lighting in the City and budget for implementation of the plan.

City Response to Recommendation 1: Partially Agree

City Staff will present the YCGJ recommendation to City Council as part of the FY 2025/26 budget, whereupon the Council can deliberate as to whether it should appropriate funding for this activity versus other priorities. City staff will also attempt to identify grants that might be appropriate to fund a comprehensive street lighting study, and if application for such grants is the best use for the funding, apply for this funding to perform a comprehensive street lighting study.

Recommendation 2:

The YCGJ recommends the City of Marysville develop a maintenance program to identify deficient lighting that needs repair and removal of any tree growth that may be associated with causing poor lighting.

City Response to Recommendation 2: Disagree

The City currently has a maintenance program. Due to budget and manpower limitations, the program is complaint/request based. This practice is consistent with the practices in other municipalities. See response to Finding 2 for more detail.



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Recommendation 3:

Marysville City Council and City Manager should adopt a procedure for residents to request new streetlights in their neighborhood by June 30, 2025.

City Response to Recommendation 3: Disagree

The City does not have a specific process for requesting a new streetlight, but has processes for residents to request items of various nature, including new streetlights. This process is sufficient. See response to Finding 3 for more detail.

Recommendation 4:

No Recommendation.

City Response to Recommendation 4:

N/A – No Recommendation given

III) Conclusion:

While the City does not agree with all findings and recommendations in the report, it agrees that street lighting is an important amenity to its residents. Using its available resources, the City will continue to work to maintain its existing streetlights. The City will also continue to pursue funding opportunities that could assist in implementing improvements to the street light system.

Jim Schaad

City Manager



Yuba County Sheriff's Department
Wendell Anderson, Sheriff-Coroner



Administration

Operations

Support Services

720 Yuba Street
Marysville, CA 95901
Ph: 530-749-7777
Fax: 530-741-6445

Jail Division

215 5th Street
Marysville, CA 95901
Ph: 530-749-7740
Fax: 530-741-6271

Animal Care Services

5245 Feather River Blvd.
Olivehurst, CA 95961
Ph: 530-741-6478
Fax: 530-741-6301

August 5, 2024

The Honorable Steven Berrier
Yuba County Superior Court
215 5th Street, Suite 200
Marysville, CA 95901

RECEIVED

AUG 08 2024

Clerk/Board of Supervisors

RE: Response to 2023/2024 Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations

Dear Judge Berrier:

This letter, provided pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933, in the Yuba County Sheriff's Department's response to the 2023/2024 Grand Jury Final Report- Findings and Recommendations concerning the investigation into the Yuba County Jail and the Yuba County Sheriff's K-9, Covid Response and after action and flood preparedness in Yuba County.

We would like to express our thanks and sincere gratitude to the 2023/2024 Yuba County Grand Jury for their dedication and commitment to the County of Yuba. Please accept the following response to the Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations:

Is Yuba County Prepared to Combat Potential Flooding?

Potential Flooding Finding F4:

Need evacuation plans for specific critical areas.

Potential Flooding Recommendation R4:

Based on the previously inundated areas, we recommend dividing the county into critical zones and developing specific evacuation plans for these areas.

Sheriff's Office Response:

The Sheriff's Office agrees with the finding. However, we disagree with the recommendation as these plans exist and are being utilized.

In 2020, the Yuba County Sheriff's Office entered into a beta testing group with Zonehaven Evacuation software (Since renamed to Genasys) to develop software based disaster evacuation response for our county. Utilizing input from Cal Fire, Cal OES, Yuba County Fire Districts, the Yuba Water Agency, as well as multiple County Departments, the County was strategically segmented into 130+ "zones."

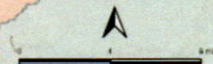
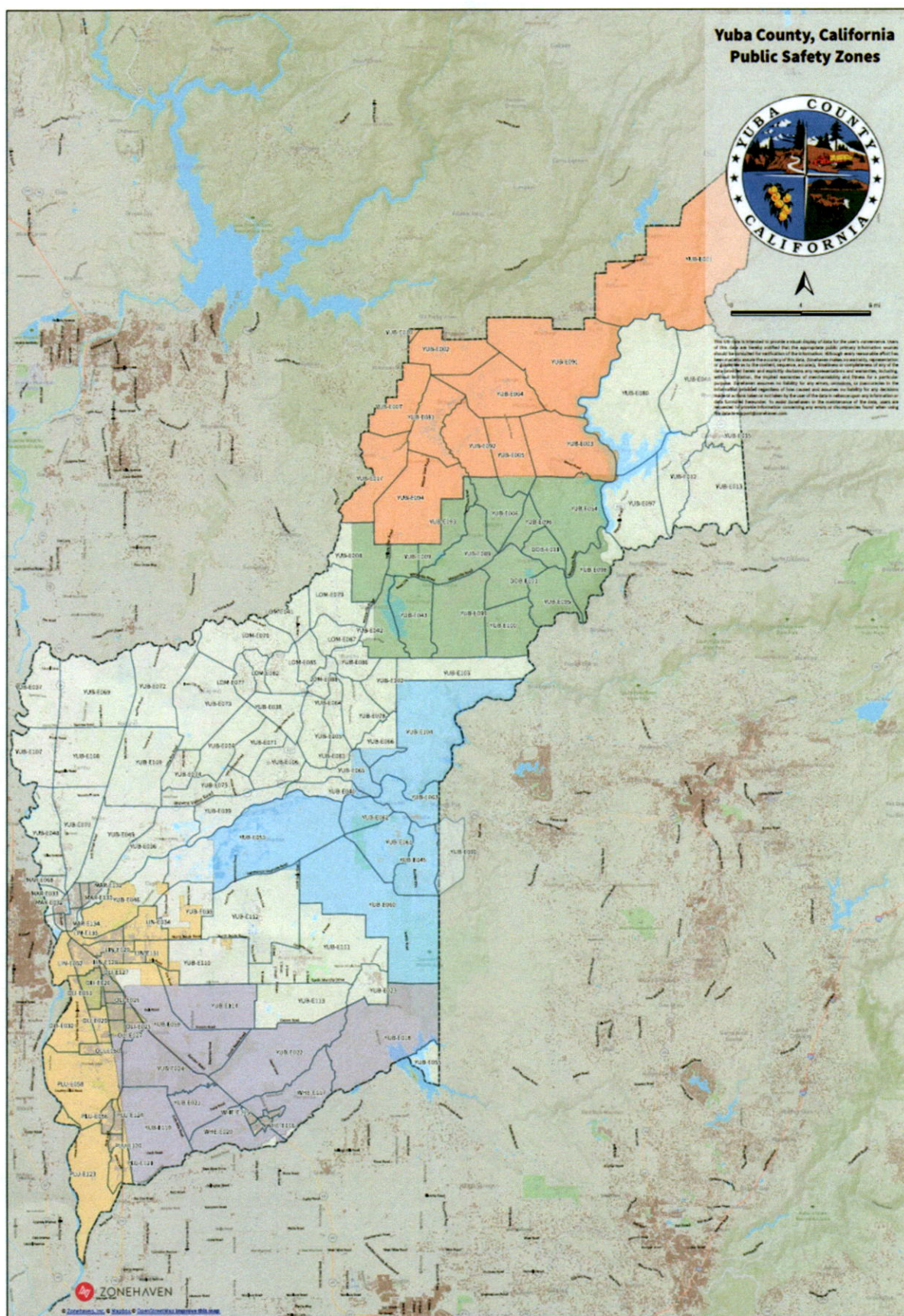
Since the initial beta testing and development, Yuba County has contracted with Genasys and has seen tremendous real world success in the utilization of this tool. Numerous counties now utilize this software which has become the benchmark for evacuation preparation and execution.

The software's significance is two-fold. The first pertains to public facing and disaster information (Genasys PROTECT). In the event of a disaster such as a flood, members of the public have real-time access to the status of any particular zone within Yuba County. These statuses include:

Normal	No pertinent directives
Advisory	Potential safety issues
Evacuation Warning	Potential threat to life and property
Evacuation Order	Immediate threat to life

When the Sheriff's Office determines that a zone elevates to Evacuation Warning or Evacuation Order, this information is made public through the Code Red notification, door-to-door contact via Sheriff's Office personnel and social media platforms. Through social media campaigns, collaborative public safety fairs and disaster updates, members of the public have been encouraged to "know your zone" and utilize Genasys PROTECT. Since its inception, this software has proven invaluable in the dissemination of information and evacuation of several zones during wildfire events in our county. Although these instances were not directly related to flooding, the concept and application is equally pertinent.

The second area of significance is the internal disaster preparedness portion of the software (Genasys EVAC). With the selection of a single or multiple zones, Yuba County Sheriff's Office and OES personnel have access to immediate information including a description of the zone, population, vehicles and structures. Additionally, each zone was evaluated and pre-disaster information was inputted to include traffic control points, critical evacuation facilities, potential evacuation routes and evacuation arrival points. This information is instrumental in determining required resources and immediate response in rapidly evolving disaster events. Below is an overall map of the Yuba County zones as well as a sample of a selected zone with available information.

[illegible]

1 Zone selected



Hide zones list

Update Status

US-CA-KYU-YUB-E053
Normal

Summary

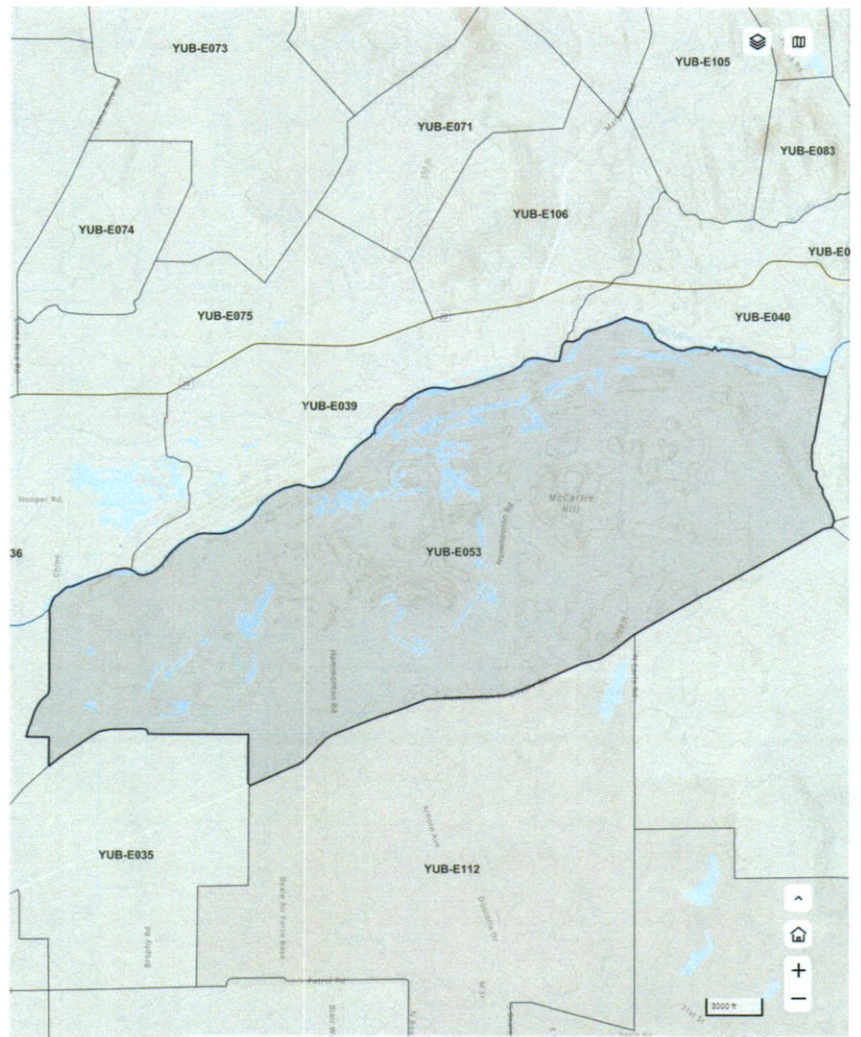
POPULATION	95	13
VEHICLES	48	96
AREA	12,408 acres	
STRUCTURES	64	

Download PDF Booklets

General info

Evacuation details

- ZONE IDENTIFICATION
- CRITICAL EVACUATION FACILITIES
- POPULATION AND VEHICLE POTENTIAL
- RESOURCES
- TRAFFIC CONTROL POINTS
- ROUTES
- INTERSECTION COUNTS
- ARRIVAL POINTS
- EQUIPMENT
- LINKS



Staffing Losses Affect Operations at Yuba County Jail

Yuba County Jail Finding F1:

Repeated issues with sewer backups in the jails causing standing water and sewage.

Yuba County Jail Recommendation R1:

Recommend retrofitting sewage pipes and considering replacing toilets with specially made toilets that catch items being flushed. This could limit or prevent inmates from stuffing items in the lines and causing backups. The cost of retrofitting may be offset by the cost of repeated sewage cleanouts by sewage companies.

Sheriff's Office Response:

The Sheriff's Office agrees with the finding and recommendation. However, it should be noted that the retrofitting of plumbing has been ongoing for several years.

The jail was constructed in 1962 and requires constant repairs due to its age. Despite being remodeled in the early 1990's, the plumbing is for the most part original and difficult to replace when damaged. Unfortunately, inmates periodically sabotage these systems with the intention of causing disruption. To minimize the actions of these individuals, protocols and procedures in the jail are constantly monitored and best practices are utilized when possible. Despite these efforts, these individuals in our care are either not cognizant of the potential damage that they cause or simply do not care.

The Yuba County Jail has periodically had incidents where the sewer has backed up in a housing unit. In each instance, our facility maintenance has identified the cause as inmates flushing items such as clothing, towels, food, plastic commissary bags and paper towels down their toilets. This has resulted in \$11,271.04 for plumbing services for necessary repairs in fiscal year 2023-2024.

Correctional and maintenance staff have established a system for limited flushing per toilet to help mitigate these clogged toilets. This process has significantly reduced the ability of inmates to flood their cells/pods by flushing clothes, towels, and food.

The Yuba County Jail has also spent \$146,057.03 over the last 4 years replacing old plumbing pipes in the basement. The following is a break-down of each of those fiscal years:

Fiscal year 2020-2021	\$50,763.95
Fiscal year 2021-2022	\$17,000.00
Fiscal year 2022-2023	\$35,330.61
Fiscal year 2023-2024	\$42,962.47

This project will continue in fiscal year 2024-2025 as we continue to update our infrastructure to attempt to help alleviate the sewage issues.

Jail leadership has researched updated technologies that would help combat these issues, but due to the significant fiscal impact associated with adding "hook traps" for each toilet and the cost to install and modify the plumbing lines (120 toilets), we are unable to proceed with the modifications at this time.

Yuba County Jail Finding F2:

Grand Jury noted a few areas of the jail emanated odors that made a few of the Grand Jury members touring the facility physically ill. The areas noted as having the strongest odors from the clothing/laundry room, the medical hold cells, and the women's dorm-style cells (large).

Yuba County Jail Recommendation R2:

Change the laundry detergent used to a more eco-friendly and odorless variety.

Sheriff's Office Response:

The Sheriff's Office disagrees with this finding and recommendation.

Jail leadership accompanied the Grand Jury during their tour(s) and noted no strong odors. At no time during any of the tour(s), did they receive any complaint(s) of odor or illness by a member of the Grand Jury. Clarification from the affected Grand Jury members would assist in identifying the cause. Three specific areas were noted and each is addressed below.

On a daily basis, all incarcerated individuals are provided with cleaning supplies to maintain the cleanliness and sanitation of their housing units. This includes the medical holding cells and women's housing units. Despite providing cleaning supplies and instruction, inmates do not always comply with these rules. When encountered with non-compliant inmates, the inmate(s) are removed from their housing unit and the area is cleaned and sanitized by inmate workers and/or staff.

The clothing/laundry area normally holds clean clothes that are distributed to inmates when needed. Dirty laundry is seldom kept in the laundry room unless it is for a short period of time until it can be taken to the washing room located in the basement. Jail staff utilizes approved industrial strength chemicals to wash the inmate clothing. The product used is Chlorine Rinse HE, and the chemical name is Sodium Hypochlorite Solution. It is a broad-spectrum disinfectant that is effective for the disinfection of viruses, bacteria, fungi, and mycobacterium. Odors are minimal and use of such products are necessary in maintaining sanitary conditions within the facility.

Yuba County Jail Finding F3:

The loss of the ICE contract has resulted in a marked staffing issue that could be contributing to some of the previous findings.

Yuba County Jail Recommendation R3:

Conduct a study on staffing shortages and determine critical positions that would alleviate health and welfare concerns for staff and inmates.

Sheriff's Office Response:

The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding and recommendation.

In February 2023, the Yuba County Sheriff's Department lost its Federal contract with ICE, which eliminated eleven (11) Correctional Officer positions. Ten (10) of those officers were assigned to the jail and one (1) was assigned to the Civil Division.

In August 2022, the Yuba County Sheriff's Department entered into a Federal contract with the US Marshal Service in anticipation of losing the ICE contract. The Yuba County Jail is currently maintaining an average daily population (ADP) of 70 US Marshal inmates. This partnership has helped to bridge the gap of losing the ICE contract and has aided our agency in maintaining current staffing levels.

It should be noted that the above reduction in staff eliminated three crucial specialty positions which has created challenges for jail operations. These specialty positions facilitated clothing exchange, medication distribution, outside recreation, barber supplies and daily cleaning supplies. As a result, staff are now tasked with these duties in addition to their primary responsibilities. At the time of the Grand Jury tours, the jail had numerous vacant positions. Since that time, the jail has filled all but two of those vacant positions. This additional staffing has helped reduce the extra duties that floor staff were required to assume.

In short, staff at the Yuba County Jail are committed to providing the highest level of care possible for those in our custody. The loss of the contract with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement was a direct result of the political atmosphere in the state of California and was in no way attributed to the performance of staff, the condition of the jail, or anything within the control of Yuba County or the Yuba County Sheriff's Office. Despite this loss, no employees were terminated or removed from their position due to the loss of the ICE contract.

Given the age and limitations of our facility, jail staff does amazing work and would welcome the opportunity for a newly constructed facility. In the meantime, staff will continue to put forth their best efforts and provide the most professional and compassionate level of care possible.

Yuba County Sheriff's K-9 Unit- Keeping Yuba County Safe

Sheriff's K-9 Unit Finding F3:

There is currently no trained drug dog to assist with contraband and community services.

Sheriff's K-9 Unit Recommendation R3:

The Grand Jury recommends that the county expand the program to include a drug dog. The drug dog program would be a great asset to assist with detecting contraband in the jail and minimize the workload on the officers in the jail.

Sheriff's Office Response:

The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding and recommendation.

In March of 2024 Correctional Officer Jesse Saldana joined the Yuba County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit with his partner, K9 Ghost, a Labrador retriever trained to detect narcotics and contraband in the jail facility. Adding a narcotics detection dog to our jail facility represents a proactive and effective measure to enhance the safety of our staff and the inmates we house. The benefits in terms of improved detection capabilities, deterrence of smuggling attempts, increased safety, and operational efficiency have already made this addition a worthwhile investment.

Yuba County's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Covid-19 Finding F1:

There did not appear to be a clear leader identified to manage emergency response, as there seemed to be a disconnect between multiple departments. However, one department relied heavily on a collaboration that was directed by the Bi-County Health Officer.

COVID-19 Recommendation R1:

There should be an established Emergency Plan available to guide emergency responses, rather than relying primarily on the direction of the Bi-County Health Officer.

Sheriff's Office Response:

The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding and recommendation.

COVID-19 Finding F2:

Local public health directives did not coordinate with local law enforcement prior to announcement. Additionally, those orders should be in compliance with local laws and the US Constitution.

COVID-19 Recommendation R2:

The plan should include processes for local Public Health authorities to coordinate with all affected agencies before making public announcements.

Sheriff's Office Response:

The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding and recommendation.

COVID-19 Finding F3:

The After-Action report was not comprehensive and reflective of the entire pandemic emergency.

COVID-19 Recommendation R3:

There should be a comprehensive process for After-Action Reports that are reflective of the entire pandemic response. The AAR only encompassed May 2021 to December 2021.

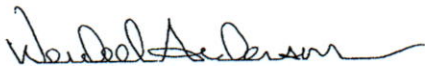
Sheriff's Office Response:

The Sheriff's Office agrees with this findings and recommendations.

CONCLUSION:

I wish to thank the 2023/2024 Grand Jury for their dedication, devotion and commitment to our community. We find value in the inspection process and despite our disagreement with some of the findings and recommendations we will continue to use the information to improve our performance and service. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. You can reach me via telephone at 530 749-7779 or via electronic mail at wanderson@co.yuba.ca.us.

Sincerely,



Wendell Anderson

Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Yuba County Board of Supervisors

Yuba County Counsel

Tri-County Youth Development Center
Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center
938 14th Street • Marysville, CA 95901
(530)741-6371

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AUG 16 2024

Clerk/Board of Supervisors

Tri-County
Probation Chiefs

Matt Ricardy
Yuba County
749-7550

Donna Garcia
Sutter County
822-7320

Mike Rogers
Colusa County
458-5871

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Stephen M. Berrier
Yuba County Superior Court
215 5th Street, Suite 200
Marysville, CA 95901

RE: Response to 2023-2024 Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations

Dear Judge Berrier;

This letter, provided pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933, is the Yuba County Probation Departments response to 2023/2024 Grand Jury Final Report – Findings and Recommendations concerning the annual investigation into the operation of the Yuba-Sutter Juvenile Hall.

FACILITIES

James Morales
Deputy Chief
Probation Officer
741-6371 x 14
Fax 749-1749

Brent Hungrige
Juvenile Hall
Probation Program
Manager
741-6371 x 23
Fax 741-6304

Dan Ritner
Camp Singer
Probation Program
Manager
741-6371 x 33
Fax 741-6249

Rachel Kitchens
Administrative
Services Officer
741-6371 x 11
Fax 749-1749

First off, I would like to thank the Grand Jury for the time and effort they put forth to inspecting the Juvenile Hall and Camp Singer facilities. I enjoyed meeting with the inspection committee and sharing the challenges of providing detention and rehabilitative services to the youth in our care. I felt the committee did a thorough inspection and expressed a real interest in understanding the facility operations and programs.

Please accept the following response to the 2023/2024 Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations:

Finding 1

The Yuba County Grand Jury finds the Tri-County Juvenile Hall very clean, organized, and despite the age of the facility, exhibits every indication of being well run and serving the needs of the youth and the community.

Recommendation 1

We agree with this finding. Facility staff make every effort to help the youth improve themselves and make better decisions in their life.

Finding 2

The Yuba County Grand Jury finds the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center very clean, organized, well equipped, and exhibits every indication of being well run and serving the needs of the youth and the community.

Tri-County Youth Development Center
Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center
938 14th Street • Marysville, CA 95901
(530)741-6371

Recommendation 2

We agree with this finding. Facility staff make every effort to help the youth improve themselves and make better decisions in their life.

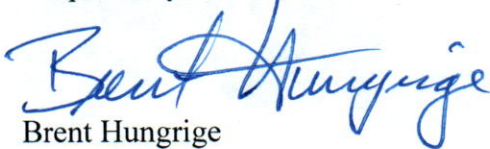
Finding 3

The Yuba County Grand Jury finds the automated telephone system serving both the Juvenile Hall and Camp Singer did not capture the voicemails that two Grand Jury members left to arrange an appointment for a tour.

Recommendation 3

We investigated this finding at the request of the Grand Jury. An investigation into this concern consisted of several calls made to the phone system from several outside numbers. Multiple voicemails were left by the callers and received by the recipient. The facility's phone system is part of the county's Mitel Communication System and supported by the County's Information Technologies Department. We would refer further questions regarding the phone system to the Yuba County IT Department.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brent Hungrige
Probation Program Manager
Tri County Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility



Dan Ritner
Probation Program Manager
Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center



James Moralez
Deputy Chief Probation Officer

SEP 06 2024

Clerk/Board of Supervisors

(530) 749-7520 - PHONE
(530) 749-7524 - FAX**KEVIN MALLIN**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**SEAN POWERS**ASSISTANCE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICE**OSCAR MARIN**

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS MANAGER

The County of Yuba

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



August 13, 2024

The Honorable Stephen Berrier
Yuba County Superior Court
215 5th Street, Suite 200
Marysville, CA 95901

**RE: Office of Emergency Services Response to 2023 – 2024 Yuba County
Grand Jury Findings**

Dear Judge Berrier:

This letter is provided to you in response to findings made by Yuba County Grand Jury in their 2023 – 2024 Report. We greatly appreciate the commitment and dedication by your members of the 2023 – 2024 Grand Jury to prepare the annual report. We praise the Grand Jury for their devotion to making Yuba County a better place to live, work, and play. Please accept the following responses to the Grand Jury findings:

Topic: Combating Potential Flooding in Yuba County

Office of Emergency Services Finding F1:

The Yuba County Emergency Plan has been updated since August 20215.

R1. Update the Yuba County Office of Emergency Services Plan.

The Office of Emergency Services agrees with the finding, however the previous administration began an update in 2019, but unfortunately in 2020, COVID – 19 halted the update. The updates have resumed and currently estimating around the beginning of 2025.

Office of Emergency Services Finding F2:

An additional river water level monitoring system is needed at the confluence of Yuba River and Feather River near Shanghai Bend.

R2. Provide an additional river water level monitoring system

The Office of Emergency Services agrees with the finding and would like to note that currently the Department of Water Resources is installing a more robust and updated river gauge on the Feather River. The location is currently being discussed, but

the Office of Emergency Services will request that placement be considered in the confluence of the Yuba and Feather River near Shanghai Bend area.

Office of Emergency Services Finding F3:

There is no flow rate gauge at or below the confluence of the Yuba and Feather Rivers.

R3. Install a flow rate gauge at or below the confluence of the Yuba and Feather Rivers.

The Office of Emergency Services agrees with the findings and would like to address that we are currently in discussions with the Department of Water Resources in looking into adding more river gauges along the Feather River. The Office of Emergency Services will continue to advocate for our areas north along our county's levees and near Bear River and Feather River confluence.

Office of Emergency Services Finding F4:

Need Evacuation Plans for specific critical areas.

R4. Based on the previously inundated areas, we recommend dividing the county into critical zones and developing specific evacuation plans for these areas.

The Office of Emergency Services agrees with the findings and has adopted Zonehaven into our county which has divided the county into Zones based on evacuation routes for county residents. We have currently acquired a new software platform called, LADRIS AI which uses artificial intelligences in real-time traffic evacuation modeling. This new software will allow for the training, planning, and developing specific evacuation plans for our specific critical areas. Yuba County Sheriff Office has the authority over public safety in our county. They will be implementing the tactical operations of all evacuations in our county using Zonehaven and LADRIS AI software.

Topic: COVID-19 Pandemic Response in Yuba County

Office of Emergency Services Finding F1:

There did not appear to be a clear leader identified to manage emergency response, as there seemed to be a disconnect between multiple departments. However, one department relied heavily on a collaboration that was directed by the Bi-County Health Officer.

R1: There should be an established Emergency Plan available to guide emergency responses, rather than relying primarily on the direction of the Bi-County Health Officer.

The Office of Emergency Services partially agrees with your findings. In our current Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) activation of our Emergency Operation Center (EOC) we do have established organizational structure in place to respond to all emergency response activations. The Bi-County Health Officer does become part of the command team during public health emergencies and establish a unified command structure, so we can assure the needs of our response are being met. Your recommendations will be implemented in updating EOP and show more specific organizational structure for the different emergency responses in Yuba County.

Office of Emergency Services Findings F2:

Local public health directives did not coordinate with local law enforcement prior to announcements.

R2: The plan should include processes for local Public Health authorities to coordinate with all affected agencies before making public announcements.

The Office of Emergency Services agrees with your findings. Although, our current EOP has an established standard operating procedure for emergency public information releases during EOC activations. When the EOC is activated, the activation of the Joint Information Center (JIC) is also activated. This allows for a coordinated release of public emergency information and making sure all stakeholders are aware of the message before it is released. Your recommendations will be implemented in updating the EOP and show a more specific dissemination of information process to address that all agencies are included.

Office of Emergency Services Finding F3:

The After-Action Report was not comprehensive and reflective of the entire pandemic emergency.

R3: There should be a comprehensive process for After-Action Reports that are reflective of the entire pandemic response. The AAR only encompassed May 2021 to December 2021.

The Office of Emergency Services partially agrees with your findings. There are currently plans in the Emergency Operations Plans for completing an After-Action Report, however your recommendations will be implemented in the updating of the EOP and show the Standardize Emergency Management Systems (SEMS) regulations requiring our county to complete an After-Action Report following an EOC activation to a declared emergency within 90 days of ending an incident.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Oscar Marin", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Oscar Marin

Emergency Operations Manager



County of Yuba Board of Supervisors

District One ~ Andy Vasquez
District Two ~ Don Blaser
District Three ~ Seth Fuhrer
District Four ~ Gary Bradford
District Five ~ Jon Messick

August 27, 2024

RECEIVED

SEP 06 2024

Clerk/Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Stephen Berrier
Yuba County Superior Court
215 5th Street, Suite 200
Marysville, CA 95901

RE: Board of Supervisors Response to 2023-2024 Yuba County Grand Jury Findings

Dear Judge Berrier:

This letter is provided to you in response to findings made by Yuba County Grand Jury in their 2023-2024 Report. We appreciate the effort that was clearly made by the members of the 2023-2024 Grand Jury to prepare the annual report and applaud their dedication to making Yuba County a better place to live, work, and play. Please accept the following responses to the Grand Jury findings:

Topic: Staffing Losses Affect Operations at Yuba County Jail

Yuba County Jail Finding FI:

Repeated issues with sewer backups in the jails causing standing water and sewage.

Board of Supervisors Response:

The Board agrees partially with the finding and it should be noted that the maintenance and retrofitting of plumbing has been ongoing for years.

The jail was originally constructed in 1962 and despite being remodeled in the early 1990's, the plumbing is for the most part original. Unfortunately, inmates periodically sabotage the plumbing systems with the intention of causing disruption. To minimize the actions of these individuals, protocols and procedures in the jail are constantly monitored and best practices are utilized when possible.

The Yuba County Jail has periodically had incidents where the sewer has backed up in a housing unit. In each instance, the County has identified the cause as inmates flushing items such as clothing, towels, food, plastic commissary bags and paper towels down their toilets. This has resulted in \$11,271.04 for plumbing services for necessary repairs just in fiscal year 2023-2024.

Correctional and maintenance staff have established a system for limited flushing per toilet to help mitigate these clogged toilets. This process has significantly reduced the ability of inmates to flood their cells/pods by flushing clothes, towels, and food.

The County has spent \$146,057.03 over the last 4 fiscal years replacing plumbing at the Jail and will continue into the future as we update our infrastructure.

Yuba County Jail Finding F2:

Grand Jury noted a few areas of the jail emanated odors that made a few of the Grand Jury members touring the facility physically ill. The areas noted as having the strongest odors from the clothing/laundry room, the medical hold cells, and the women's dorm-style cells (large).

Board of Supervisors Response:

Based on information received from the Sheriff's Office, the Board partially disagrees with this finding.

Jail leadership accompanied the Grand Jury during their tour(s) and noted no strong odors. At no time during any of the tour(s), did they receive any complaint(s) of odor or illness by a member of the Grand Jury. Clarification from the affected Grand Jury members would assist in identifying the cause. Three specific areas were noted and each is addressed below.

On a daily basis, all incarcerated individuals are provided with cleaning supplies to maintain the cleanliness and sanitation of their housing units. This includes the medical holding cells and women's housing units. Despite providing cleaning supplies and instruction, inmates do not always comply with these rules. When encountered with non-compliant inmates, the inmate(s) are removed from their housing unit and the area is cleaned and sanitized by inmate workers and/or staff.

The clothing/laundry area normally holds clean clothes that are distributed to inmates when needed. Dirty laundry is seldom kept in the laundry room unless it is for a short period of time until it can be taken to the washing room located in the basement. Jail staff utilizes approved industrial strength chemicals to wash the inmate clothing. The product used is Chlorine Rinse HE, and the chemical name is Sodium Hypochlorite Solution. It is a broad-spectrum disinfectant that is effective for the disinfection of viruses, bacteria, fungi, and mycobacterium. Odors are minimal and use of such products are necessary in maintaining sanitary conditions within the facility.

Yuba County Jail Finding F3:

The loss of the ICE contract has resulted in a marked staffing issue that could be contributing to some of the previous findings.

Board of Supervisors Response:

The Board of Supervisors wholly disagrees with this finding.

In February 2023, the County lost its Federal contract with ICE, and the associated revenue, however in August 2022, the County entered into a Federal contract with the US Marshal Service in anticipation of losing the ICE contract to minimize the fiscal impact from these supplemental funding sources. The primary source of revenue to operate the Yuba County Jail is the County's discretionary fund simply called the General Fund. General Fund revenue is derived from local taxes, primarily property and sales tax. The Board of Supervisors have proactively worked with the Sheriff's Department to ensure that there is adequate General Fund available for Sheriff Department operations, including the jail. The General Funds utilized by the Sheriff's Department in 2023-2024 were \$25,344,347. In comparison, the General Funds for fiscal year 2020-2021 were \$20,397,820 and General Funds budgeted for the Sheriff's Department for fiscal year 2024-2025 are \$30,766,548. This investment in local revenue into Sheriff Department operations represents the single largest investment in a County Department of local taxes received by the County.

Topic: Yuba County Sheriff's K-9 Unit- Keeping Yuba County Safe**Finding F1:**

Patrol dogs in Yuba County provide an essential service to the citizens as well as the deputies. The K-9s are an important deterrent to potentially violent situations. They are a valuable resource that provides a positive bridge between the community and the Sheriff's Department.

Board of Supervisors Response:

The Board wholly agrees with this finding.

Finding F2:

The financial impact of the dogs on the county is minimal when compared to the service they provide.

Board of Supervisors Response:

The Board wholly agrees with this finding.

Finding F3:

There is currently no trained drug dog to assist with contraband in the jail and community services.

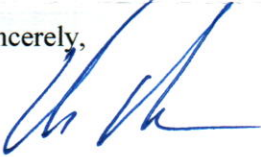
Board of Supervisors Response:

The Board partially disagrees with this finding.

In March of 2024 Correctional Officer Jesse Saldana joined the Yuba County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit with his partner, K9 Ghost, a Labrador retriever trained to detect narcotics and contraband in the jail facility.

In fiscal year 2024-2025 there is a planned and budgeted K9 to be added to the Probation Department to further expand the County's K9 capabilities and the County will continue to look for K9 opportunities in the future.

Sincerely,



Don Blaser
Chair